

Medical Assistance for the Elderly and Disabled

RESOURCE FACT SHEET



This fact sheet provides only general information, not legal advice. If you have legal questions, you may want to consult an attorney, or other professional, when applying for medical assistance.

This information
applies to you,
if you are:

- *at least 65 years of age, or*
- *permanently disabled, or*
- *blind, and*
- *not in a nursing home*

What are resources?

Resources are available money, assets or property. They may include cash, bank accounts, stocks and bonds, trusts, annuities, life insurance policies, sales contracts, vehicles, and land.

Which resources are counted in determining medical assistance eligibility?

We count a resource if –

- You own the resource, and
- You are able to convert the resource to cash, and
- You may legally use the resource for support, and
- The resource has value, and
- The resource is not exempt (see “Which resources are exempt?” on this fact sheet).

When do you own a resource?

You own a resource, unless you can show otherwise, when –

- Your name on a document establishes ownership, or
- You are married and thus own one half of the combined resources of you and your spouse.

When is a resource considered available?

A resource is considered available when –

- It is not exempt and can be changed to cash.

Which resources are exempt?

We consider the following resources exempt –

- The first \$2,000 of available resources for an individual.
- The first \$3,000 of available resources for a couple.
- The home you own or are buying (primary residence only).
- Money from the sale of your home, if you buy another home within three months.
- Some sales contracts established for the sale of your home.

(turn Fact Sheet over for more information)

- One car
- Business property needed to support yourself.
- A life insurance policy for each spouse valued at \$1,500 or less.
- Burial spaces intended for use by you or your immediate family.
- *Burial funds which:*
 - you set aside solely for burial expenses of yourself and/or your spouse.
 - are kept separate from other funds.
 - do not exceed \$1,500 for you and \$1,500 for your spouse (although life insurance policies may affect this limit).
- Burial trusts or contracts for funeral expenses (which may affect allowable amounts in life insurance or burial accounts).
- Basic household and personal items.
- Items necessary for the blind or disabled to be self-supporting.

What value does a resource have?

We value resources by–

- The face or market value of securities, such as stocks and bonds.
- The average trade-in value for vehicles.
- The net value of a real estate mortgage or sales contract.
- The cash surrender value of a life insurance policy.

How do we set a value on trusts and annuities?

- We count the cash value of most trusts, whether or not they can be cashed.
- We usually count only the income from annuities.

When would a resource transfer affect my eligibility for medical assistance?

We don't count a resource transferred by you, unless you enter a nursing home, or receive care like that provided in a nursing home. When you need medical assistance while in a nursing home, we determine if you have set up a trust in the past five years, or transferred any other resource in the past three years. If you weren't adequately compensated for the transfer of the resource, we establish a penalty.

Additional details will be provided at the time of application at your local community services office. To locate the nearest DSHS community services office, refer to the state government section in the front of your phone book under Social and Health Services.